

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A transceiver module inserted within a cage having a cage latch that retains the transceiver module in the cage, the transceiver module comprising:
a ramp;
a release mechanism mounted to the transceiver module and movable between at least a first position and a second position; and
a movable actuator coupled to the release mechanism, wherein the actuator does not deflect the cage latch when the release mechanism is in the first position, wherein the actuator moves along the ramp as the release mechanism is moved from the first position to the second position, and wherein the actuator deflects the cage latch when the release mechanism is in the second position such that the transceiver module can be removed from the cage.
2. The transceiver module of claim 1 wherein the actuator has an actuator arm to engage the release mechanism and wherein the actuator has tines configured to move along the ramp.
3. The transceiver module of claim 2 wherein the tines are shaped to slope upward from the actuator.
4. The transceiver module of claim 1 further including a projection configured to engage the latch of the cage.
5. The transceiver module of claim 4 wherein the cage latch has a slot through which the projection projects when the release mechanism is in the first position and wherein the projection is removed from the slot when the actuator deflects the cage latch when the release mechanism is in the second position.

6. The transceiver module of claim 1 wherein the release mechanism is a rotatable handle mounted to the transceiver module.

7. The transceiver module of claim 6, wherein the transceiver module has a front face and wherein the handle is in the first position when it extends parallel to the front face and wherein the handle is in the second position when it extends perpendicular to the front face.

8. The transceiver module of claim 6, wherein the transceiver module has a front face and wherein the handle is in the first position when it extends parallel to the front face and wherein the handle is in the second position when it extends at an angle 50 degrees relative to the front face.

9. A transceiver module with an interface surface received within a cage, the cage including a cage latch that retains the transceiver module, the transceiver module comprising:

- a ramp on the interface surface of the transceiver module, the ramp having a ramp surface that slopes away from the interface surface of the transceiver module and toward the cage latch;
- an actuator adjacent the interface surface of the transceiver module and configured to be movable on the ramp surface;
- a release handle mounted on the transceiver module and coupled to the actuator such that rotating the release handle in a first direction causes the actuator to move along the ramp surface toward the cage latch thereby moving the cage latch away from the interface surface and such that rotating the release handle in a second direction causes the actuator to move along the ramp surface toward the interface surface and away from the cage latch.

10. The transceiver module of claim 9 wherein the actuator has an actuator arm to engage the release handle and wherein the actuator has tines configured to move along the ramp surface.
11. The transceiver module of claim 10 wherein the tines are shaped to slope upward from the actuator.
12. The transceiver module of claim 9 further including a projection configured to project away from the interface surface and toward the cage such that the projection engages the cage latch when the actuator has not moved the cage latch away from the interface surface and such that the projection does not engage the cage latch when the actuator has moved the cage latch away from the interface surface.
13. The transceiver module of claim 12 wherein the cage latch has a slot through which the projection projects when the actuator has not moved the cage latch away from the interface surface.
14. The transceiver module of claim 12 wherein the release handle can be rotated in the first direction such that the actuator moves cage latch away from the interface surface sufficient to provide clearance between the cage latch and the projection so that the transceiver module can be removed from the cage.
15. The transceiver module of claim 9 wherein the ramp surface is linear.
16. The transceiver module of claim 9 wherein the ramp surface is curved away from the interface surface.
17. A data transmission system comprising:
a printed circuit board;

a cage structure fixed to the printed circuit board, the cage structure having an opening and a latch adjacent the opening, the latch further including a latch slot;
a transceiver module pluggable into the opening of the cage structure, the transceiver module having a module projection, a ramp, a release mechanism and an actuator, wherein the transceiver module is retained within the cage by the engagement of the module projection with the latch slot and wherein the transceiver module is removable from the cage by moving the release mechanism such that it forces the actuator along the ramp such that the actuator engages the cage latch and frees the module projection from the latch slot.

18. The data transmission system of claim 17, wherein the release mechanism is a rotatable handle mounted on the transceiver module, and wherein the transceiver module has a front face.

19. The data transmission system of claim 18, wherein transceiver module is retained within the cage by the engagement of the module projection with the latch slot when the handle extends parallel to the front face.

20. The data transmission system of claim 18, wherein the transceiver module is removable from the cage as the cage latch is free of the module projection when the handle extends at an angle 50 degrees relative to the front face.